

In the Specification:

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 10 and 11 with a new paragraph as follows:

Al -- In a special further development of the basic idea of the invention, which can be seen with reference to Fig. 5, the floor covering has openings 8 (perforations) or recesses 9 provided in the underside of the covering in which the thickness of the covering is reduced locally. A further distinguished setting of the elastic properties of the floor covering can be obtained, on the one hand, with these special embodiments and, especially in the case of perforations, the flow-off of water (or other liquid) that might have collected on the top of the covering. The additional perforations 8 or recesses 9 can be especially easily shown in circular form, however, they can also have an elongated form following the path of the interstices between the first and second projections of the floor covering. A form elongated in this way especially also comprises circular segments, however, it can also be closely adapted to the shape of the interstices. --.

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 1 through 12.